(b) exempted the fertiliser dealers holding up to 10 tonnes of fertiliser material from the requirement of registration under the fertiliser control Act;

(c) Sales of fertilisers to farmers in small bags;

(d) free soil testing service to farmers;

(e) release of short-term loans to State Governments for advance purchase of fertilisers;

(f) a scheme on balanced use of fertilisers is being implemented which is expected to help in generating demand and promoting balance use of fertilisers;

(g) a scheme on bio-fertiliser production and promotion is being implemented. This is expected to help in supply and use of organic forms of plant nutrients; and

(h) in order to bring down the price of decontrolled fertilizers and increase their consumption, the Central Government took several steps like decanalisation of di-ammonium phosphate, reduction in railway freight by approximately 38 percent, abolition of customs duty on certain raw materials, etc.

Production of Coconut

*99. SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when Government declared coconut as Oil seed;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to boost the production of coconut;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what steps are being taken to control the coconut disease throughout the country; and

(e) what steps have been taken to increase irrigation facilities in areas of coconut cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) In October, 1990.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following projects are taken up for increasing production of coconut in the country through Coconut Development Board :—

1. Production and distribution of quality planting material.

2. Expansion of area under coconut.

3. Integrated farming in coconut small holdings in Kerala for productivity improvement.

4. Integrated control of leaf-eating cater-pillar.

5. Assistance for providing irrigation facilities to coconut growers.

(d) Assistance is provided for the followings—

1. Cut and removal of diseased coconut palms and replanting.

2. Plant protection chemicals.

(e) Assistance is being provided by the Board for creation of irrigation facilities such as irrigation sources, installation of pump-sets and laying out drip irrigation unit in coconut holdings.

Recognition of Andhra Pradesh University of Health Sciences

*100. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to recognise Andhra Pradesh University of Health Sciences under section 12(b) of the U.G.C. Act for providing assistance;